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NEWS RELEASE

A Report to Communicators of Home Appliance Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECORD FEBRUARY

FOR MAJOR HOME APPLIANCES

CHICAGO -- Nearly 3.5 million major home appliances were shipped in February, establishing a new record for the month, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

Total monthly shipments were up 9.1%, surpassing last February's previous high by almost 290,000 units.

Strong shipment gains in four of the five appliance categories effected the unprecedented monthly levels. Compared to the same period a year ago, shipments of home comfort appliances were up to 34.9%; home laundry equipment, up 14.8%; food preservation appliances, up 12.1%; and kitchen cleanup products, up 10.9%.

Shipments for almost half of the appliance products were the best ever recorded for the month. New February records are:

* 461,100 refrigerators,
* 446,600 automatic washers,
* 366,900 disposers,
* 365,800 dryers, and
* 323,500 dishwashers.

Year-to-date shipments are 11.4% higher (over 770,000 units

(MORE)

greater) than last year's same period.

According to the current forecast*, the appliance industry expects 1987 to be another strong year, with shipments achieving a "second-best" annual record of 43.1 million units.

1984-1986 were consecutive record years for major appliances, resulting in annual shipments of 39.4 million, 41.8 million and 45.1 million units respectively.

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*--AHAM issues shipment forecasts quarterly.

MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE FACTORY SHIPMENTS, THOUSANDS OF UNITS
(Domestic Plus Export)
February, 1987

	FEBRUARY			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE		
	1987	1986	% Change	1987	1986	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES*	3,476.6	3,187.1	9.1%	7,559.4	6,788.1	11.4%
COOKING - TOTAL	1,126.4	1,144.2	-1.6%	2,725.6	2,480.8	9.9%
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	247.5	253.5	-2.4%	529.9	519.0	2.1%
Free Standing	195.9	208.6	-6.1%	423.5	427.8	-1.0%
Built-In	51.6	44.9	14.9%	106.3	91.2	16.6%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES**	892.5	904.4	-1.3%	2,224.6	1,991.3	11.7%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	812.4	707.5	14.8%	1,752.9	1,573.5	11.4%
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	446.6	398.9	12.0%	952.2	888.8	7.2%
DRYERS - TOTAL	365.8	308.5	18.6%	800.7	685.0	16.9%
Electric	285.3	240.9	18.4%	627.0	534.3	17.3%
Gas	80.4	67.6	18.9%	173.7	150.6	15.3%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	709.7	639.9	10.9%	1,514.7	1,358.3	11.5%
DISPOSERS	366.9	339.9	7.9%	816.1	724.6	12.6%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	323.5	287.0	12.7%	660.8	605.9	9.1%
Built-In	302.6	265.6	13.9%	615.4	561.1	9.7%
Portable	20.9	21.4	-2.3%	45.4	44.8	1.3%
COMPACTORS	19.3	13.0	48.5%	37.8	27.8	36.0%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	543.2	484.4	12.1%	1,101.0	1,022.5	7.7%
REFRIGERATORS	461.1	407.1	13.3%	934.9	855.4	9.3%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	82.1	77.3	6.2%	166.1	167.0	-0.5%
Chest	45.4	40.9	11.0%	91.1	88.7	2.7%
Upright	36.8	36.4	1.1%	75.0	78.3	-4.2%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	284.9	211.2	34.9%	465.4	353.1	31.8%
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	242.9	174.9	38.9%	397.7	308.1	29.9%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	41.9	36.3	15.4%	67.6	46.9	44.1%
GAS RANGES***	160.1	149.5	7.1%	340.4	297.9	14.3%

* Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
** Includes U.S. produced and imported microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.
*** Source: GAMA. Not included in cooking total or total shipments.